

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

## USEPA Public Involvement Policy Addenda 1 and 2

### 1. Tools to Support Public Involvement

### 2. Summary of Response to Comments

#### Addendum 1: Tools to Support Public Involvement

RCRA Public Involvement Manual (EPA530-R-96-007, September 1996)

<http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/hazwaste/permit/pubpart/manual.htm>

Public Involvement in Environmental Permits: A Reference Guide (EPA599-R00-007, August 2000) <http://www.epa.gov/permits/publicguide.htm>

Model Plan for Public Participation (EPA/300-K-96-003, November 1996)

[http://www.epa.gov/compliance/resources/publications/ej/model\\_public\\_part\\_plan.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/compliance/resources/publications/ej/model_public_part_plan.pdf)

Environmental Justice in EPA Permitting: Reducing Risk in High-Risk Communities is Integral with the Agency's Mission, National Academy of Public Administration, December, 2001

<http://www.epa.gov/compliance/resources/publications/ej/napa-epa-permitting.pdf>

How to Participate in EPA Decision-Making (63 FR 58038, October, 1998)

Resource Guide for Resolving Conflicts in Communities (EPA/360-F-00-001, May 2001)

<http://www.epa.gov/adr/Resguide.pdf>

Guide on Consultation and Collaboration with Indian Tribal Governments and the Public Participation of Indigenous Groups and Tribal Citizens, National Environmental Justice Advisory Committee, Indigenous Peoples Subcommittee, November, 2000

[http://www.epa.gov/compliance/resources/publications/ej/ips\\_consultation\\_guide.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/compliance/resources/publications/ej/ips_consultation_guide.pdf)

Public Involvement Techniques for Transportation Decision-making, US Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration (FHWA-PD-96-031HEP-30/9-96/(4M)QE, September 1996) <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/rr/reports/pitttd/contents.htm>

Social Aspects of Siting RCRA Hazardous Waste Facilities (EPA/530-K-00-005, April, 2000)

[www.epa.gov/epaoswer/hazwaste/tsds/site/k00005.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/hazwaste/tsds/site/k00005.pdf)

Community Culture and the Environment: A Guide to Understanding a Sense of Place (EPA 842-B-01-003, January 2003) <http://www.epa.gov/ecocommunity/pdf/ccecomplete.pdf>

The Agency's Web site: see <http://www.epa.gov/publicinvolvement>

EPA's 28 libraries: see <http://www.epa.gov/natlibra/libraries.htm>

Information Products Bulletin: see <http://www.epa.gov/ipbpages>

EPA Strategic Information Plan: A Framework for the Future (July 29, 2002): see

<http://www.epa.gov/oei/collecting.htm>

The following addendum is not intended to be part of the Policy. It contains additional information that may

be of interest to EPA staff and the public.

## Addendum 2: Summary of Response to Comments

EPA received 202 public comments on the draft policy. Comments came from 26 state agencies, 12 local governments, 17 environmental organizations, 82 citizens, 5 industrial interests, 5 agricultural interests, and many others.

The most frequent comments request that EPA:

1. Improve how it plans and conducts public meetings
2. Clarify the roles of state and local governments in EPA's decisions and clarify how the policy affects state public involvement activities
3. Ensure that public input influences EPA's decisions, and that EPA provides feedback to participants or commenters
4. Use specific enhanced methods for conducting outreach to the public
5. Affirm its commitment to early and meaningful public involvement
6. Implement the policy and hold staff and managers accountable for public involvement
7. Increase and improve its use of electronic communication methods
8. Put more emphasis on evaluation
9. Reference good EPA resources for staff and managers to use
10. Relate public involvement to EPA's mission

EPA made many changes to the Policy and its presentation to accommodate the comments.

The most significant changes were:

- Clarifying the roles of state, tribal and local governments
- Clearly stating that the Policy applies only to EPA
- Expanding and clarifying Step 5 - "Conduct public consultation and involvement activities" to include suggestions for when to use which techniques
- Adding a list of public involvement tools (Addendum 1)
- Adding a seventh step on Evaluation
- Expanding the section "*Who is responsible for managing the application of this Policy?*" to include additional officials and levels of authority
- Including a prominent statement of EPA's mission
- Stating the relationship of public involvement to environmental justice
- Including a summary of the Policy at the beginning
- Placing response to comments information in an addendum to the Policy
- Editing to maximize clarity and minimize redundancy
- Moving most definitions to an appendix
- Revising the Advisory Committees appendix to match the latest FACA revisions
- Eliminating most of the statutes, regulations and Executive Orders, and listing only the key statutes as an appendix
- Recognizing resource constraints in several places
- Adding information about those portions of the Privacy Act that relate to contact lists
- Adding information about the EDOCKET

The Policy has been modified to address these comments. The "Framework for Implementing EPA's Public Involvement Policy" and materials in development for distribution to staff and managers will also respond to many of the comments.

EPA's Response to Comments on the Draft 2000 Public Involvement Policy" is available on the Internet at <http://www.epa.gov/publicinvolvement/reponsecomments.pdf>. Printed copies are also available by request to: USEPA/OPEI/OEPI Mail Code 1807T, Public Involvement Staff, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20460.

The public input received through EPA's Internet-based "Dialogue on Public Involvement in EPA Decisions" helped to inform the Implementation Plan. EPA convened a 10-day Internet-based Dialogue in July 2001 through which 1,166 participants suggested how EPA could improve public involvement and identified areas of needed improvement. Many of the suggestions parallel the ideas expressed in formal public comments. (See Dialogue messages at <http://www.network-democracy.org/epa-pip>.) Participants suggested ways that EPA could improve in the following areas:

- ▶ Identifying members of the public who should be invited to participate
- ▶ Providing technical and financial assistance to assist the public's participation
- ▶ Effectively using collaborative processes (through advisory committees or other participatory practices)
- ▶ Evaluating EPA's public involvement activities and making EPA accountable
- ▶ Conducting effective public involvement for local site-specific decisions
- ▶ Providing outreach to the public in effective ways
- ▶ Making necessary information and documents available to the public
- ▶ Improving the public involvement process for permits and rules
- ▶ Working with states, tribes and local governments